

Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry

November 17, 2024

Advent – The Space Between

Space to Love

- 15 Minutes **Gathering, Hospitality, Check-in with Each Other...**
Where did you see/experience God this week?
What is giving you hope?
- Opening Prayer Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p52)
- 45 Minutes **Discussion Questions:**
Read again Mark 13: 1-8
 What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
 What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?
God's world of forgiveness, love and mercy has come in Jesus, and yet the fullness of this salvation is still not yet here. In this space between the 'now and not yet,'
 How does this passage invite us see it as a 'threshold time'?
 What does Jesus reveal in foretelling the destruction of the temple?
 Why do you think the disciples want to know when the end will come?
 What is the freedom of not knowing?
 How does the hard truth that nothing on earth will last inform your faith?
 Where do you hear Jesus' spiritual directive to hold on?
 To what, do we hold on to?
- Read again Hebrews 10: 11-25
 What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
 How does this reading invite us to see this as a space to love?
 What does it look like to provoke one another to love and good deeds?
 What is the confession of our hope to which we hold?
 Why is that important that we meet together regularly?
- Read again Daniel 12:1-3
 What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
 Why are there visions of deliverance like this in Scripture?
 Why is it important to reflect on passages like these?
- 20 Minutes **Prayer Requests and Prayer**
- 10 Minutes **Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session:** Conversation about details for the next session...place, day, time, and volunteer Host. Remember...bring a Bible, watch the Sunday worship and sermon in preparation for the group session.

Maximum amount of time...90 minutes. Time used for each component is flexible depending on the agreed upon needs of the group for that session.